

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support Senator Simon's amendment. Once again it's an indication that there is money that's being made on tax on food. If we're going to try to refund most of it, then we should try to do it the fairest way we can. This figure is half way equitable, half way right. I'll support it.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd like to ask Senator Maresh a question if I may.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Maresh will you yield?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Maresh, in your original bill, you raise the credit from \$16 to \$20, is that correct?

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SENATOR CARSTEN: May I ask how you arrived at the \$4 increase? On what basis you made that recommendation?

SENATOR MARESH: Ron Bowmaster, your assistant, gave me those figures. I don't think that's allowing for the increase in sales tax. In other words, we're not giving credit to the people from September to the first of the year. We're just starting on the first of the year to give them credit on this. So there is some difference there that we haven't provided. So, he said \$20 to \$21 at that time. That was last October, I believe he came up with this figure. I see the Commissioner of Revenue stated that \$24 would be more accurate.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Frank Lewis. Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the figure and I'm sure it's almost going to be unanimous. I know that Senator Swigart wants to give back to the people exactly what they deserve cause of his genuine concern for them as he expressed. I know the others that expressed that and the part I think that's most acceptable to many of those who voted no that this doesn't come out of the local coffers, but out of ours. If \$24 is a fair figure, well I accept Senator Simon's word on it. That's the dollar level. If the arguments that prevailed here in spite of those of us that suggested that we remove it first in an orderly way then secondly we remove it totally, appears that based on the arguments that we've heard that everybody wants it repaid right down to the last penny. Senator Simon has told you that the commissioner has said this is the exact figure, so it's going to be nice to see a green board up there, so that all of you can vote the way you spoke.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Would all of you that have spoken turn off your lights if you do not want to speak again. I think that we have recognized all who want to speak. Therefore, Senator Simon, would you close?

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, I waive closing and I'm looking forward to seeing that board light up green.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The motion is Senator Simon's amendment to LB 30 increasing the food tax to \$24, is that correct? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? 25 votes is an amendment. Have you all voted? Record vote